Public Enterprises Survey 1989-90 placed on the Table of the House on 27-2-1991.

Average Retail Price of Common Salt

3773. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average retail price of common salt/iodised salt respectively in July 1990 and July, 1991:

(b) whether it is possible to roll back the average price to the July 1990 level;

(c) if so, the measures taken in regard thereto: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The average retail price of common salt in July '90 and July '91 was Rs. 1.20 and Rs. 1.50 respectively. The average retail price of iodised salt both in July '90 and July '91 was Rs. 1.87.

(b) to (d) There has been a marginal increase in the average retail price of common salt while there has been no change in the average retail price of iodised salt in July '90 and July '91. Though there is no statutory control over prices of salt, the Government have been taking various measures like daily monitoring of prices, holding of meetings with the manufacturers and coordinating with Railway for movement in order to ensure that the prices of edible salt remain steady.

Production and Demand of Salt

3774. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production each of common salt and iodised salt during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (upto end of July);

(b) the average annual demand for domestic consumption in the country of common salt/iodised salt; and

(c) the average cost of production of common salt/iodised salt during the aforesaid periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The production of common and iodised salt during the preceding three years is as under:—

(*In tonnes*)

Year	*Common Salt*	*Iodised Salt*
1989-90 .	83,41,400	22,56,800
1990-91 .	101,41,100	25,04,400
1991-92 . (Upto May, 1991)	32,52,800	4,83,600

(b) The average annual demand for domestic consumption of common and iodised salt respectively is 24.41.000 and 26.16.000 tonnes.

(c) The cost of production of common and iodised salt during the preceding three years is as under:—

(*Figures in Rs. per tonne*)

Year	*Common Salt*	*Iodised Salt*
1989-90 .	100-140	130-185
1990-91 .	120-165	155-215
1991-92 .	135-180	175-235

[*Translation*]

Incentives to manufacturers of button and jewellery from Oyster Shell

3775. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any cottage industry manufacturing buttons and jewellery from oyster shell in Mehasi in east Champaran district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of units thereof functioning at present and the num-